

of Sales Tax revenues of these States/UTs for last 5 years upto 2004-05. Further, during first 7 months of the year 2006-07 (April-October), the tax revenue of 30 VAT implementing States/UTs has registered a growth rate of 26.1 % over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) 3 States/UT, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry are yet to implement VAT. The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to implement VAT w.e.f. 01.01.2007. The Government of Pondicherry has informed that it proposes to implement VAT w.e.f. 01.04.2007. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has yet not taken a decision regarding implementation of VAT.

Collection of service tax by BSNL

1427. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the BSNL, the Public sector telecom major contributes more than Rs. 3000 crores a year as Service Tax;
- (b) whether BSNL collects Service Tax on more than 20 crore bills monthly;
- (c) whether BSNL franchisees have alleged harassment by tax authorities over the payment of Service Tax every month and almost 25 per cent of the franchisees have threatened to sever connections with BSNL due to this vexatious tax collection system; and
- (d) what steps are being taken by Government to address this problem faced by BSNL franchisees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

- (b) The information regarding the number of bills issued by a service taxpayer is not collected by the Department.
- (c) No such instance of harassment has been reported.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Relief to employees of profit making PSUs

1428. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of any mandate to the Public Sector